

Month to introduce the Ovarian Cancer Biomarker Research Act of 2007 with Representative RALPH M. HALL. I commend Mr. HALL, my friend and colleague, for his work on this issue and for his dedication to this devastating disease.

According to the National Cancer Institute (NCI), there will be 22,430 new cases of ovarian cancer and 15,280 deaths from ovarian cancer in the United States in 2007. Ovarian cancer ranks fifth in cancer deaths among women and causes more deaths than any other cancer of the female reproductive system.

Early detection is the key to preventing deaths from this disease. In cases where ovarian cancer is detected before it has spread beyond the ovaries, more than 93 percent of women survive longer than five years. When diagnosed in the advanced stages, the chance of five-year survival drops to about 30 percent. Currently, early stage diagnosis occurs in only 20 percent of ovarian cancer cases in the U.S. Ovarian cancer mortality could be reduced dramatically if a majority of the women affected by ovarian cancer were diagnosed at an early stage. Unfortunately, there is no widely accepted or effective screening test for ovarian cancer currently available and the disease is difficult to identify because symptoms are easily misdiagnosed.

The Ovarian Cancer Biomarker Research Act of 2007 would authorize the NCI to make grants to public or nonprofit entities to establish research centers focused on ovarian cancer biomarkers. Biomarkers are biochemical features within the body that can be used to measure the progress of a disease and predict the effects of treatment. This Act also establishes a national clinical trial that will enroll at-risk women in a study to determine the clinical utility of using these validated ovarian cancer biomarkers.

The need for increased research and funding for ovarian cancer is critical to improving survivorship rates from this disease. Between FY2003 and FY2006 funding for the NCI increased by \$211 million, but gynecologic cancer research funding decreased. With the lifetime risk of ovarian cancer at one out of every 69 women, we must increase the resources to fight this disease.

Credit is due to the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance, and the American College of Surgeons for supporting the Ovarian Cancer Biomarker Research Act of 2007. Support for this bill from groups such as these is extremely important throughout the entire legislative process. Specifically, I thank Dr. Beth Karlan for bringing the idea for this bill to my attention. Dr. Karlan is the Past President of the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists. She is a physician, teacher, and advocate in the field of gynecologic cancer and has helped numerous women in their battle with these diseases. She has also testified before Congress about the need for increased research and funding for gynecologic cancers. Her efforts are to be commended.

I also want to acknowledge Lindy Graham, a dear friend of mine, afflicted by ovarian cancer. Lindy has waged a spirited and successful battle against this disease and is currently cancer free, a pronouncement that fills me and all of Lindy's myriad of friends with great joy.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to the passage of this bill and the day when all cases of

ovarian cancer are detected early and all women diagnosed with this disease survive.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. JOHN "BUCK" O'NEIL

#### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2003

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the achievements of Mr. John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil, a former baseball player and manager for the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro Leagues, and the first African American coach in Major League Baseball. At his death, Buck, as he was affectionately called, was a resident of the Fifth District of Missouri which I am honored to represent. This week, Mr. O'Neil will be inducted into the Missouri Walk of Fame posthumously during a reception as part of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference, an event held to honor the achievements of African-Americans who have made significant contributions to Missouri.

John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil was born the grandson of slaves in Carrabelle, Florida, on November 13, 1911. He acquired his love for baseball at a young age from his father, who played for the local team when he wasn't working as a foreman in the celery fields. As a teenager, Buck realized that he wanted to do something more with his life, but times were difficult throughout the country during the Great Depression, and he had received little formal education because the local high school was segregated.

When his father told him that, "There is something better, but you can't get it here, you're gonna have to go someplace else," Buck made the decision to try his luck as a baseball player in the semiprofessional barnstorming leagues that traveled the entire country. It didn't take him long to attract the attention of the Memphis Red Sox of the Negro American League, who signed him to his first professional contract in 1937. After a year of playing for the Red Sox, Mr. O'Neil's contract was purchased by the Kansas City Monarchs—the team with which he would spend the rest of his playing career.

The Monarchs were the most successful team in the history of the Negro Leagues, winning the most titles and producing the best players. While playing for Kansas City, Mr. O'Neil won batting titles in 1940 and 1946 and led his team to a convincing victory in the 1942 Negro World Series. He batted .353 as the Monarchs swept the Homestead Grays, 4–0. He was also selected to play in three Negro American League All-Star Games, and would likely have accomplished more during his playing career had it not been for World War II; Mr. O'Neil dutifully served his country for 2 years by completing a tour in the United States Navy from 1943–1945.

Buck stayed with the Monarchs through, the end of the 1955 season, serving both as a player and as the team's manager for the final 8 years of his time in Kansas City, all the while facing the harshness of separation and discrimination in a country that was still segregated. Thanks in part to the significant accomplishments of his Monarchs teammate

Jackie Robinson, who broke down racial barriers by joining the Brooklyn Dodgers of Major League Baseball in 1947, Buck too was able to join a rapidly-integrating MLB as a scout for the Chicago Cubs. In 1962, he became the first African American coach in the Majors. During his storied career with the Cubs, Mr. O'Neil was responsible for the development of many great major leaguers, like Joe Carter, and he also signed two future Hall of Fame players—Lou Brock and Ernie Banks. After 33 years with the Cubs, Buck returned home in 1988 to scout for the Kansas City Royals.

Despite his myriad accomplishments on the field as a player, manager, and coach, it is Buck O'Neil's accomplishments off the field that demonstrate his love for the game of baseball and his commitment to the essential role that the Negro Leagues played in the integration of both American sport and American society. In 1990, O'Neil was a leader in the effort to create the Negro League Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri. The Museum, located in the historic 18th and Vine district of downtown Kansas City, has excelled for nearly a decade in its mission of educating all Americans about the rich and important history of the Negro Leagues. Buck served as the Board Chairman for the Museum and actively promoted its messages of understanding and triumph over adversity. In addition to his work with the Museum, Mr. O'Neil served as a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame Veterans Committee from 1981–2000, working hard to ensure that many of the Negro League players who had been denied entrance into the Major Leagues because of segregation were able to gain a deserved entrance into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

After devoting so many years of his life to promoting the accomplishments of others, many believed that the time for Buck's recognition had finally arrived in the spring of 2006, when he was on a special ballot for entry into the Hall of Fame. Shockingly, the Committee chose not to induct Mr. O'Neil, to the dismay of many—but not Buck. Unaffected by the Hall's decision, he took the high road and offered to speak at the induction ceremony on behalf of those selected, because many of them had passed on. On June 30, 2006, Buck selflessly honored all 17 individuals related to the Negro Leagues who were inducted, giving an inspiring speech and instructing all audience members to hold hands and join him in song. The ovation he received was the loudest and longest of the ceremony.

At the time of his death, Buck O'Neil's efforts were focused on the John "Buck" O'Neil Education and Research Center. Scheduled for completion in late 2007, the Center will be an expansion of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum devoted to teaching people of all ages many different aspects of the Negro leagues and baseball. The 45,000 square foot facility will house extensive archives and promises to devote much of its space and funding to state-of-the-art technology and programs that will teach many different things to many different people.

Throughout his life, he was dedicated to youth and the importance of education, and the effects of his efforts have brought about a more diverse and concerned citizenry throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area and our nation. For these reasons and more, it is indeed an honor and privilege to recognize Mr. John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil at the Missouri

*September 28, 2007*

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — *Extensions of Remarks*

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Walk of Fame reception, hosted by myself and fellow Missourian, U.S. Representative WILLIAM LACY CLAY of St. Louis.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. John “Buck” O’Neil, not just to the Kansas City community, but to the entire country at large. He is a true

role model, a person who has been dedicated with improving the condition of his fellow man for more than 70 years.